Setting up coal based power plant in M.P. by N.L.C.

1547. SHRIRK. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Government of Madhya Pradesh has asked Neyveli Lignite Corporation to examine setting up a 1000 MW coal based power plant in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the steps being taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL): (a) and (b) Keeping in view the severe power shortage in the State of Madhya Pradesh, Ministry of Coal had written to Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) to set up a task force to study the feasibility of setting up of a coal based power plant in Madhya Pradesh. Accordingly, NLC set up a task force consisting of senior officials of NLC. The task force held preliminary discussions with officers of State Government and Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board (MPSEB).The State Government has conveyed its 'In Principle' acceptance for setting up the thermal power project by NLC. Final acceptance would be given by the State Government only after examining the detailed proposal and ascertaining suitability of the project from the techno-economic angle. NLC is now in the process of establishing the coal linkage for the project. After establishing the coal linkage, other activities like initial survey, preparation of feasibility report, preparation of Environment Impact Assessment report etc., will be undertaken.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) and (b) above.

Opening up coal mining to the private sector

1548. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open up coal mining to the private sector;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and